

Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A method for transferring data between first and second data processing applications, both of which operate on said data, said method comprising:

measuring a first data transfer metric for a first data transfer pathway between said first processing application and said second processing application;

measuring said first data transfer metric for a second data transfer pathway between said first processing application and said second processing application;

comparing the first data transfer metric for the first pathway to the first data transfer metric for the second pathway; and

selecting one of said first and second data transfer pathways for subsequent data transfers based upon the result of said comparing, and upon at least one user-specified data transfer rule;

wherein said first and second processing applications and said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised by a single computer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised of at least one computer program.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways is a physical transmission media.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A method for transferring data between first and second data processors which operate on said data, said method comprising:

measuring a first data transfer metric for a first data transfer pathway between said first processor and said second processor;

measuring said first data transfer metric for a second data transfer pathway between said first processor and said second processor;

comparing the first data transfer metric for the first pathway to the first data transfer metric for the second pathway; and

selecting one of said first and second data transfer pathways for subsequent data transfers between said first and second processors based upon the result of said comparing, and upon at least one user-specified data transfer rule;

wherein said first and second processors and said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised by a single computer.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised of at least one computer program.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways is a physical transmission media.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A computer ~~system that minimizes data transfer operations~~, comprising:

a ~~data network having~~ a plurality of data transfer pathways through which data is transferred within said computer;

at least first and second processors provided within said computer that are coupled to said network data transfer pathways; and

a data transfer manager provided within said computer coupled to the first and second processors and coupled to the data transfer pathways network, said data transfer manager being configured to determine data transfer metrics of a plurality of data transfer pathways and select a data transfer pathway through which subsequent data transfers will occur based upon at least one user-selected transfer attribute.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ of claim 13 wherein said data transfer manager is a computer program.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first data transfer metric relates to at least one of error rates, buffer overflows, and under-runs.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first data transfer metric relates to processing overhead.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said processing overhead results from at least one of encryption and compression.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one user-specified data transfer rule comprises at least one of selecting the most secure pathway and the least expensive pathway.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one user-specified data transfer rule comprises selecting the least expensive pathway for very large data transfers and the fastest pathway for sensitive data transfers.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said first data transfer metric relates to at least one of error rates, buffer overflows, and under-runs.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said first data transfer metric relates to processing overhead.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein said processing overhead results from at least one of encryption and compression.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one user-specified data transfer rule comprises at least one of selecting the most secure pathway and the least expensive pathway.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one user-specified data transfer rule comprises selecting the least expensive pathway for very large data transfers and the fastest pathway for sensitive data transfers.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ of claim 29 13 wherein said data transfer metrics include processing overhead.

31. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ of claim 30 wherein said processing overhead results from at least one of encryption and compression.

32. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ of claim 13 wherein said at least one user-selected transfer attribute comprises at least one of selecting the most secure pathway and the least expensive pathway.

33. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ of claim 13 wherein said at least one user-selected transfer attribute comprises selecting the least expensive pathway for very large data transfers and the fastest pathway for sensitive data transfers.